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CIA REACTION TO SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ'S STATEMENT ON POLYGRAPHS

Thousands of people in the intelligence community submit to polygraph examinations in recognition of the need to protect the nation's most vital secrets and because of the proven usefulness of the polygraph as an investigative tool. They understand that the government, in granting access to the nation's secrets, also bestows special trust, as well as a shared responsibility for protecting those secrets. The number of leaks of sensitive classified information in recent years makes clear that a growing number of those given special trust have not lived up to their obligations. The reality is that the loss of classified information is severely damaging our foreign policy and our intelligence capabilities. The use of polygraphing in the intelligence community has proven to be the best deterrent to the misuse of sensitive information. There is an acute need to extend its selective, careful use to branches of government that receive that information. The DCI and his predecessors voluntarily have been polygraphed, believing in the importance of setting an example that all those with access must do what they can to protect our secrets and to cooperate in identifying those who do not.